

...to identify,
discuss, and
resolve problems
and issues within
our community...

**April
2011**



July, 2001

www.OGHRG.org

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Newsletter

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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comments, suggestions:
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Next Meeting is: **Thursday, April 7th, 2011**

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Granada Hills Charter High School- Rawley Hall



April 18
Tax Day

7:00 Introductions, Disclaimer

7:05 Reading of Minutes, Agenda Review

7:10 Community Announcements; News; Events

7:15 OGHRG Committee Reports
Financial; Zoning and Density
Newsletter

7:20 Guest Speaker; State Senator Sharon Runner

8:10 Updates and reports: Hospital High; Group Homes;
Community Plan and proposed new ordinance

8:20 New Business and Wrap-up

April meeting is April 7th, Granada Hills Charter High School

OGHRG President's Message

Dues Call 4.0: Thanks to all of you who have submitted dues for 2011. This will be the last call I make this year. If you have not yet submitted your dues, please do so. Annual dues are \$15 per person or \$25 per household, you can send them to our P.O. Box or bring them to the April meeting.

The Fight for a Community Care Ordinance Continues: We have been advised that the Community Care Ordinance will be heard by the City Council's PLUM Committee on March 29, 2011. Assuming the PLUM Committee passes the CCO out of Committee, it will go to the full City Council. Because the City Planning Commission failed to give a recommendation on the Ordinance, it will take a two-thirds vote, (10 out of 15) to pass.

Hospital High Update: On March 8, 2011, LAUSD Superintendent Cortines made his recommendations for Operators of new schools that will be opening this fall. Not surprisingly, most of the recommendations went to LAUSD, including Hospital High. As Brian Bauer, the Executive Director of Granada Hills Charter High School put it; "the decision is inexplicable". In his report, Superintendent Cortines lauded the improvement in scores in LAUSD District 1 high schools, while completely ignoring the far greater scores (as much as 200 points) achieved by GHCHS. Also ignored was the fact that the Community, as expressed in the Community vote and the support of key Community organizations was completely behind GHCHS.

On March 15, 2011, the LAUSD Board upheld Superintendent Cortines' decision. Our own representative, Tamar Galatzen voted for the LAUSD proposal. Thus, we have come full circle with Hospital High. The community was completely ignored when LAUSD bought the property, foreclosing the possibility of reopening the hospital. And the community has been ignored again in our choice of the management of the new school. I am very proud of the effort put forth by Granada Hills Charter High School in their bid to operate the school. I am also extremely disappointed in Tamar Galatzen, who is supposedly a proponent of school choice, but certainly demonstrated that when the hard choice had to be made, she was not up to the task.

Candidate Forums: Thanks to all of you who attended our March 3rd Candidate's Forum; we had over 130 members and guests attend, and the questions were thought provoking and timely. Many thanks to Don Neal, from the Sylmar Neighborhood Council, who moderated the event.

Dave Beauvais

April Guest Speaker - Senator Runner

Elected to the California State Senate in February of 2011, Sharon Runner represents Los Angeles, Ventura, Kern and San Bernardino counties. Sharon is the seventh Republican woman in California's history to be elected to the State Senate.

Born in Los Angeles and raised in the Antelope Valley. She achieved success as a businesswoman when she formed a public relations/marketing company.

A lifelong advocate of education, Sharon co-founded Desert Christian Schools (DCS) in 1977. Under her leadership, the schools laid the groundwork to become one of the largest private schools in California. Today, DCS serves nearly 1,700 students of all ages at three campuses. Sharon currently serves on DCS's Board of Directors.

Committed to giving back to her community, Sharon serves on non-profit organizations like the United Way, the CareNet Pregnancy Resource Center, A.V. Crime Task Force and A.V. Hospital Gift Foundation.

Sharon was elected to the Assembly in 2002 and in her first term was appointed the Assistant Republican Leader. She was an integral part of several major policy decisions to successfully reform California's workers' compensation system reducing rates and bringing insurers back to California. She continually worked for public safety, education, children's issues, including foster care and adoption.

Sharon authored and successfully pushed for the passage of Jessica's Law, which created the nation's toughest sex predator law that help protect California's children

After leaving the Assembly in 2008, Sharon was elected vice-president of California Women Lead, a bi-partisan organization that encourages and empowers women to run for public office. She currently serves as the organization's president.

Sharon and her husband, Board of Equalization Member George Runner, have two children and three grandchildren and reside in the Antelope Valley.

Spring Egg Hunt

Granada Hills Recreation Center is proud to again host the Community Spring Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 23, 2011 at Granada Hills Recreation Center,

16730 Chatsworth Street @ Petit St. The event starts at 10:00am. This event held annually for families and children draws anywhere from 300-400 people. There will be a Face Painting Booth, Moon Bounce, a Magician and an area

where participants can pose for photos with the Bunny. Face Painting, Moon Bounce, Bunny Photos and Refreshments will can be purchased for a nominal fee.

Anyone interested in helping out by volunteering or donating can email dwayne.finley@lacity.org

If there are any questions concerning this event please do not hesitate to call us at 818-363-3556.



Coming Events



Apr 1; April Fool's Day- Friday

Apr 5: GH Chamber Gov't Affairs Committee monthly meeting; 11:45AM, Chamber office, 368-3235

Apr 7: Old Granada Hills Residents' Group Meeting; 7:00 See cover page for agenda

April 13: Public Safety meeting with Cheif Beck, see article

Apr 14: Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council, 7:30pm Granada Pavilion in Trader Jo's shopping center near Pep Boys

Apr 14,15: Book Sale at library, see article

Apr 16: Holy Cross Hospital expansion opening; see article

Apr 18: Income Taxes Due

Apr 17: Chatsworth Day of the Horse; Stoney Point Ranch; Megan Cottier; 818-756-8501

Apr 18: Passover

Apr 18: Valley Vote meeting; 6:45 Galpin Ford; contact Joe Vitti; javittisr@cs.com

Apr 21: Neighborhood Watch 17A35 Basic Car Mtg, St. Euphrasia Church, 11766 Shoshone; 7pm. SLO Del Core

April 22: Earth Day

Apr 23: Spring Egg Hunt, see article

April 24: Easter Sunday

Apr 23: Friends of Library book sale; see article for details

Apr 26: 17A49 Neighborhood Watch 7:00 pm LAFD Fire Station at Balboa and Devonshire; SLO Janine Angeles

Apr 25: Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council, 6:00pm Van Gogh Elementary School

May 2: Granada Hills Chamber annual Golf Tournament; 818-368-3235; sponsorships and golf slots available

A resident of Granada Hills who is a director of the Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council is scheduled to be on the TV game show "Wheel Of Fortune", April 19th. See if you recognize him.

FREE MULCH



16600 Roscoe Pl. North Hills
7am - 6pm 7 days a week

Load your own container and take as much as you want; courtesy of the City Of Los Angeles. Mulch is delivered there Wednesdays and Fridays.



Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce
32nd Annual Golf Tournament
Monday May 2nd
Porter Valley Country Club

Putting contest, Continental Breakfast Shotgun start, No host cocktails, Silent Auction, Awards Dinner and Prizes

Sponsorships and
Golf Slots Available

818 368-3235



Book Sale

The Friends of the Granada Hills Library will be having a book sale on Friday, April 15th (2-5pm) and Saturday, April 16, from 10:00 a.m to 2:00 p.m. Lots of paperbacks, hardcovers, fiction and nonfiction books will be offered at excellent prices. The sale will take place in the community



room at the library which is located at 16040 Petit Avenue, Granada Hills, CA (corner at Chatsworth St.) The library phone number is 818 368-5687. *Carol Mandelberg*

Granada High Wins State Title

Granada Hills Charter High School took first place in the state's Academic Decathlon, March 14th, outscoring 64 other teams. The competition in Sacramento included a record 11 schools from Los Angeles Unified with Marshall High in second place and El Camino Real in 3rd.




Not only did the GHCHS team garner the top score, GHCHS students earned the top two individual scores in the state. Austin Kang took the state's top individual score followed by Harsimar Dhanoa in 2nd place. In addition, Elysia Easty earned the second highest score in Varsity-student category and Joon Lee was

the 3rd highest scorer in the Honors-student category. With these individual scores, GHCHS students held four of the top nine individual scores in the state.

Not only is this an outstanding achievement for the students and coaches involved, it brings recognition to the school and the entire Granada Hills community. We wish the team well as they compete for the national title in Charlotte, North Carolina, April 27-30, 2011.

You can do more than wishing them well by making a donation to help with the cost of sending the Team to the Championships in North Carolina. For more information about the GHCHS team and the Academic Decathlon National Competition visit. www.ghchs.com www.academicdecathlon.org www.usad.org

 **Hal Singer, a long time director of Old Granada Hills Residents' Group who was the writer of the "Singer's Zingers" column in this newsletter, passed away on March 18th. Our sincerest condolences to his wife, Anne, and family.**

✿ I am ready to meet my maker, but whether my maker is prepared for the ordeal of meeting me is another matter.
Winston Churchill

Recently Sold Homes

11314 White Oak	\$512,000	10347 Aldea	\$430,000
17608 Tuscan Dr	\$470,000	17604 Ludlow	\$400,000
10410 Louise	\$442,500	11009 Louise	\$414,500
17915 Tuscan Ct	\$630,000	10334 Rubio	\$439,000

Hawaii - \$100

In conjunction with the Mike Casey Golf Tournament, a Grand Prize Raffle for a week's rental of a beach front villa on Maui that can accommodate 10 is available to everyone. Only 100 tickets will be sold and the cost is a mere \$100. Buy more than one and odds of winning are greater. You will be able to arrange what week you want, pending availability. Drawing will be held May 2nd at the Golf Tournament and the winner need not be present.



You can come by and have dinner and a chance for other raffle prizes after the golf. All proceeds benefit the Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce. Contact the Chamber office at 368-3235

Hospital Expansion Opening



Join the celebration of the new Holy Cross Hospital 138 bed patient care wing. It is one of the first "green" hos-

pital buildings in California. The four story wing will have 12 neonatal intensive care beds, a new Women's Pavilion, gastroenterology lab, operating rooms and a 100 seat chapel. With this \$180 million expansion project, Holy Cross is one of the largest hospitals in the greater Valley area at 377 beds. The busy hospital, was founded in 1961, seeing 70,000 patients in the Emergency Department during 2010.

Come see the new facility and rub elbows with the dignitaries, government officials, medical staff. Be sure to visit the new lobby featuring Heritage wall that tells the Holy Cross story. **Saturday, April 16th**, 2:00 to 5:00, Holy Cross Hospital; 15031 Rinaldi, Mission Hills. 818-496-4780

Public Safety Meeting



Councilman Greig Smith, who is Chair of the City's Public Safety Committee is hosting a Public Safety Town Hall meeting Wednesday evening, **April 13th**, from 6:30 to 8:00 at St. Nicholas Greek Church ((501 Balboa, at Plummer). He has assembled the LA Police Commission and Chief Charlie Beck for this meeting to discuss public safety issues in the Devonshire Division area and the City of LA. Everyone is welcome to attend and parking is free.

Devonshire Division Crime Stats 2/13 thru 3/12

Homicide0	Burglary 92
Rape 2	GTA 53
Robbery 14	BFMV 115
Aggravated	Personal/
Assault 18	Other theft
Shots fired .. 1	..87Arrests 383

Data from LAPD Compstat

Hospital High – Tamar Galatzan Failed Us

Granada Hills Charter High School was denied the opportunity to operate VRHS#4 (affectionately known as Hospital High) when the entire LAUSD Board of Education voted to award the management to the LAUSD/Monroe team. With Hospital High in Board Member Tamar Galatzan's district, the board followed her lead. Had she expressed her support for Granada, or the other members of the Board opted to think independently, we might have had a different outcome.

The March 15th Board meeting began with Superintendent Cortines presenting his recommendations for each of the 13 schools in this year's Public School Choice. He spoke in general terms of his 3 guiding philosophies for the concept of Public School Choice (PSC); Education Quality; Community involvement; and the urgency to help all students, with creative solutions to improve the unacceptable 54% graduation rate. In his selection process of recommending an operator, the submitted plans had to: Have strong data supporting their claims and ideas; Demonstrate a proven track record; Have strong outreach; and Show an effective structure to implement the plan.

If you read Granada Hills Charter plan, it is difficult to see what Cortines missed, as all of his criteria were met. In Cortines' written recommendation for LAUSD/Monroe there were comments: "Missing... is a defined plan for educating and supporting English Learners"; "It is unclear what strategies..."; "does not establish a link..."; "It is also unclear how data collected will be monitored and used...". "It is unclear whether or not this program is feasible under our current budget constraints". He did, however, state that both plans were strong and either would be a good option. The best option, he felt, would be to split the campus management but that would not be feasible. So he chose to recommend LAUSD/Monroe.

Cortines' recommendation did have some "positive" points for LAUSD/Monroe. Of the strongest articulated and a primary reason stated by Tamar Galatzan, was that their plan has three arts-focused small learning communities that fills an arts high school void in the San Fernando Valley. He stated that Monroe High School's API score was up 50 points to 667. [Granada Hills Charter's has been over 800 since 2006, never below 760 since becoming a charter, rising to 874 last year] He also added: "The proposal [LAUSD/Monroe] articulates a deep understanding of the community the school serves and strategies for robust family and community engagement".

One has to wonder how a theme based school, such as an arts focus school, is consistent with what LAUSD has been stressing as one of the primary reasons for building these new schools. New campuses were to eliminate overcrowding and busing, thereby creating neighborhood schools. Where is the data that defines and supports the need for a arts themed high school within the geographic area surrounding VRHS#4 or even in the new Zone of Choice.

With many of the other school recommendations Cortines

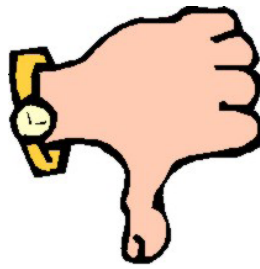
made, he suggested that a Campus Council made up of teachers and administrators of surrounding schools be set up to create and implement plans for improving the school. With others, he gave them until April 25th to revise their plans. LAUSD/Monroe was given the opportunity to revise.

After Superintendent Cortines read all his recommendations, it was up to the Board to discuss and vote on each of the schools. There was a lot of discussion and amendments voted upon. In the final tally, 8 charters were awarded, 2 more than Cortines recommended. When it was time for VRHS#4, Tamar had the microphone and began by saying this was one of the most agonizing and difficult decisions she has had to make. She gave praise to Granada High and noted that the school just won the state academic decathlon. Her comments about LAUSD/Monroe were that they plan on an arts oriented high school that is currently lacking in the Valley. They also have a better understanding of the students that will be attending the new school whereas the proposed Granada Charter plan is "not a school for every child". No other board member spoke and the vote was taken – unanimous. Final. Done Deal. LAUSD/Monroe will be operating Hospital High.

With Tamar Galatzan's incomprehensible decision, it is apparent that politics as usual is far more important than a quality education. Consider: That the Board's vote was originally scheduled for February 22nd and was moved to a date after the city's March

8th election; The public advisory vote was held at Monroe High School; Monroe's graduation rate is 78%; Granada's is over 95%; Monroe's API score is 667; Granada's is 874; Granada has no furlough days; Monroe has a shorter school year; LAUSD has severe budget problems with proposed layoffs; Granada has a 25% budget reserve; There are over 2,000 students on a waiting list trying to attend Granada; virtually all community organizations supported Granada High. In the aftermath of the Hospital High Saga, how will our newly reelected representative, who campaigned as a major voice for reform, deal with the "politics" of the community?

(Ms. Galatzan was asked to comment on her decision for this publication, her written response is on page 5)



Congratulations to Granada Hills Resident, Mitchell Englander, for election to the Los Angeles City Council. He will be taking over retiring Greig Smith's seat when he is sworn in this July. Mitch has been to many of our monthly meetings and is aware of our local problems and concerns. His eight years of working City Hall will enhance his ability to get things done. We welcome him to all of our events as our newest City Councilman.

- There are two sides to every political question, but only one office.
- An election is the only race in which most people pick the winner.

Hospital High – Tamar Galatzan Explanation

As I noted during the March 15th Board of Education meeting, selecting an operator to run the new high school in Granada Hills was an incredibly difficult decision. One of the applicants, Granada Hills Charter High School, has compiled an extraordinary record of academic and athletic excellence at its existing campus, while the other, the Los Angeles Unified School District, submitted a creative and innovative plan to enhance arts education for Valley students. Along with Superintendent Cortines, my first choice was to allow both applicants to run the school, an arrangement that is working well at many other new LAUSD high schools, but the distrust and rhetoric between the charter, LAUSD, and their respective supporters eliminated that possibility. In the end, I agreed with the Superintendent's recommendation to approve LAUSD as operator. As he explained in his assessment: "The proposal articulates a deep understanding of the community the school serves and strategies for robust and family and community engagement..." The Superintendent also pointed out that "the school is actively seeking to strengthen existing partnerships with institutions of higher learning, arts facilities and museums." California State University, Northridge, which this year opened a major new arts complex on its campus, and CalArts have both agreed to an innovative partnership with the new arts school.

I fully recognize that it is one thing to put a strong plan on paper, and another to implement it. Opening and running this school will require access to funds. It's no secret that LAUSD is in the midst of a devastating budget crisis, which over the past few years has resulted in dwindling resources and thousands of employee layoffs. There is understandable skepticism about whether the District can find the dollars – year after year -- to sustain its ambitious plans for Valley Region High School #4. If that does not happen, and students are denied the level and quality of instruction that the proposal promises, I will revisit the decision. But at the same time, it would be wrong to punish LAUSD for budget reductions imposed from Sacramento.

Families living in Granada Hills and surrounding commu-

nities deserve another great high school. GHCHS's model works for many students, but not all students can or want to attend the school. As a boardmember, and a strong supporter of Public School Choice, I am committed to providing quality educational options for all of the 650,000 students in LAUSD. My vote in favor of the LAUSD plan for VRHS#4 affirms that commitment.

Tamar Galatzan

Boardmember, Los Angeles Unified School District

State and Tax Facts

The most populated state in the country is California with 37.3 million people. Texas is second with 25.2 million followed by New York (19.4 million) and Florida (18.8million).

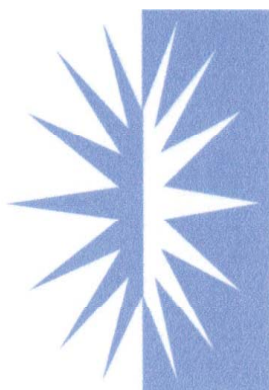
There are 7 states with no individual income tax; Alaska, Florida, Nevada, South Dakota, Texas, Wyoming, Washington. Four states do not collect a corporation net income tax; Nevada, Texas, Washington, Wyoming. California with 3.9%, was one of 11 states that had a year to year state tax revenue increase.

When it comes to total* state government tax revenue, California is on top of the list with collections of \$86.98 billion. New York is a distant 2nd with \$49.53 billion, with Florida and Texas close to the same \$21.45 billion.

(* total tax categories include: General Sales; Individual Income; Corporate Net; Severance; Documentary and stock transfer) data from US Dept of Commerce, Economics and Statistical Administration, US census Bureau.)

Echoing some of those statistics, State Senator Tony Strickland notes in the Daily News, March 24th that: California has the highest sales taxes in the nation. We have the highest gas taxes and the highest car taxes. Our personal income taxes are the 3rd highest in the nation. Our corporate income taxes are the highest west of the Mississippi.

Of all our natural resources, the first one to be depleted will probably be the taxpayer.



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Old Granada Hills Residents' Group is a non profit organization of volunteers and concerned residents of our community. In our 10th year, we are a voice well known to our elected representatives with issues that affect us all - please join us.

April 2011

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The businesses you have seen listed in this newsletter are dedicated to preserving our Old Granada Hills Neighborhood. If you would like to become a sponsor and have your business listed, please call us at (818)368-7454

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